IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for diagnosing consumer electronic devices, the method comprising:

receiving information indicative of a problem with one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices; and

providing a diagnostic procedure to control diagnosis of the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices by at least one testing consumer electronic device within a plurality of consumer electronic devices that comprises the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices in addition to the at least one testing consumer electronic device, each consumer electronic device of the plurality of consumer electronic devices having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose locally at least one other consumer electronic device within the plurality of consumer electronic devices.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one testing consumer electronic device is coupled to the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices via a home network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the diagnostic procedure instructs a user to connect the at least one testing consumer electronic device to the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices specifically for the diagnosis.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a user interface for performing the diagnostic procedure.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

directing a user to a consumer electronic device that is designated to provide a user interface for performing the diagnostic procedure.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the diagnostic procedure over a public network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the diagnostic procedure from a home network device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

downloading the diagnostic procedure to a diagnostic procedure host device.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the diagnostic procedure host device is a component of the at least one testing consumer electronic device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

providing direct communication between a user and a human test technician using connection of the home network to a public network.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for diagnosing consumer electronic devices, the method comprising:

collecting data concerning functionality of a potentially faulty consumer electronic device using a testing consumer electronic device within a plurality of consumer electronic devices that comprises the potentially faulty consumer electronic device in addition to the testing consumer electronic device, each consumer electronic device of the plurality of consumer electronic devices having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose locally at least one other consumer electronic device within the plurality of consumer electronic devices;

utilizing the collected data to identify a problem with the potentially faulty consumer electronic device; and

if the problem is identified, notifying a user about the problem.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the testing consumer electronic device communicates with the potentially faulty consumer electronic device using a home network.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein collecting data further comprises:

instructing the testing consumer electronic device to remotely control a certain operation of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device and to capture data resulting from the certain operation; and

receiving the resulting data from the testing consumer electronic device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein collecting data further comprises:

instructing the testing consumer electronic device to download a sequence of stimulus and measurement instructions to the potentially faulty consumer electronic device for execution and to capture data resulting from the execution; and

receiving the resulting data from the testing consumer electronic device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein collecting data further comprises:

instructing the testing consumer electronic device to generate test data on one of a plurality of streaming outputs, to direct the test data to a streaming input of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device, and to capture output data of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device; and

receiving the output data of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device from the testing consumer electronic device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein collecting data further comprises:

instructing the testing consumer electronic device to test an operation of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device pertaining to communication between the potentially faulty consumer electronic device and an operational user interface, the operational user interface being known to function properly; and

receiving test data from the testing consumer electronic device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the testing consumer electronic device communicates with the potentially faulty consumer electronic device using a connectivity means that is established specifically for the diagnosis.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

determining which one of a plurality of potentially faulty consumer electronic devices has a fault.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein collecting data further comprises:

providing direct communication between a user and a test technician via an operational interface of a consumer electronic device using connection of the home network to a public network, the consumer electronic device being any one of the testing consumer electronic device and the potentially faulty consumer electronic device.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein collecting data further comprises:

comparing a current operation of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device with a prior operation of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device that was recorded before the problem arose.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein collecting data further comprises:

comparing a current operation of the potentially faulty consumer electronic device with an operation of a similar consumer electronic device that is known to operate properly.

22. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the potentially faulty consumer electronic device is diagnosed using test media generated for the potentially faulty consumer electronic device before the problem arose.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for diagnosing consumer electronic devices, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving information indicative of a problem with one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices; and

means for providing a diagnostic procedure to control diagnosis of the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices by at least one testing consumer electronic device within a plurality of consumer electronic devices that comprises the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices in addition to the at least one testing consumer electronic device, each consumer electronic device of the plurality of consumer electronic devices having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose locally at least one other consumer electronic device within the plurality of consumer electronic devices.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for diagnosing consumer electronic devices, the apparatus comprising:

a user interface to facilitate user input of information indicative of a problem with one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices; and

a gateway device to provide a diagnostic procedure to control diagnosis of the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices by at least one testing consumer electronic device within a plurality of consumer electronic devices that comprises the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices in addition to the at least one testing consumer electronic device, each consumer electronic device of the plurality of consumer electronic devices having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose locally at least one other consumer electronic device within the plurality of consumer electronic devices.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for diagnosing consumer electronic devices, the apparatus comprising:

means for collecting data concerning functionality of a potentially faulty consumer electronic device using a testing consumer electronic device within a plurality of consumer electronic devices that comprises the potentially faulty consumer electronic device in addition to the testing consumer electronic device, each consumer electronic device of the plurality of consumer electronic devices having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose locally at least one other consumer electronic device within the plurality of consumer electronic devices;

means for utilizing the collected data to identify a problem with the potentially faulty consumer electronic device; and

means for notifying a user about the problem if the problem is identified.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for diagnosing consumer electronic devices, the apparatus comprising:

a data collector to collect data concerning functionality of a potentially faulty consumer electronic device using a testing consumer electronic device within a plurality of consumer electronic devices that comprises the ~~one or more~~ potentially faulty consumer electronic ~~devices~~ device in addition to the ~~at least one~~ testing consumer electronic device, each consumer electronic device of the plurality of consumer electronic devices having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose locally at least one other consumer electronic device within the plurality of consumer electronic devices;

a problem identifier to utilize the collected data to identify a problem with the potentially faulty consumer electronic device; and

a user interface to notify a user about the problem if the problem is identified.

27. (Previously Presented) A system for diagnosing consumer electronic devices comprising:

a plurality of consumer electronic devices operable to diagnose functionality of one another, the plurality of consumer electronic devices comprising one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices in addition to at least one testing consumer electronic device, coupled to the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices, the at least one testing consumer electronic device having, in addition to conventional consumer electronic device functionality, extra functionality to diagnose the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices; and

a diagnostic procedure host device, coupled to the at least one testing consumer electronic device, to control diagnosis of the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices, the diagnosis being performed locally by the at least one testing consumer electronic device.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 further comprising:

a gateway device, coupled to the diagnostic procedure host device, to request a diagnostic procedure associated with the one or more potentially faulty consumer electronic devices over a network and to download the diagnostic procedure to the diagnostic procedure host device.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the diagnostic procedure host device is a component of the at least one testing consumer electronic device.

30.-32. (Canceled)